

CLAIMS

1. A plug-in for use with a standard network management software that discovers all devices on a network and that stores information about the discovered devices in a database, comprising:

5 a first computer control configured to access the database and to identify a first set of network devices from the database;

 a second computer control configured to poll the first set of network devices for information.

2. A plug-in according to claim 1, further comprising:

10 a third computer control configured to utilize the information from the polled first set of network devices to set predetermined properties for at least one of the first set of network devices.

3. A plug-in according to claim 1, further comprising:

15 a fourth computer control configured to determine error conditions in the first set of network devices from the information from the polled first set of network devices.

4. A plug-in according to claim 3, further comprising:

 a fifth computer control configured to report at least one of the error conditions to a device management facility by an e-mail message.

20 5. A plug-in according to claim 4, wherein the fifth computer control is further configured to report at least a first error condition substantially as the first error condition occurs, and to report at least a second error condition if the second error condition persists for a predetermined period of time.

 6. A plug-in according to claim 5, wherein the second to fifth computer controls are repeated for all devices within the first set of network devices at every one of poll cycles.

25 7. A plug-in according to claim 1, wherein the standard network management software is HP Open View™.

 8. A plug-in according to claim 1, wherein the first set of network devices are all the network devices on the network discovered to be manufactured by a same manufacturer.

30 9. A plug-in according to claim 4, wherein fifth computer control is further configured to encrypt the e-mail message.

10. A plug-in for use with a standard network management software that discovers all devices on the network and that stores information about the discovered devices in a database, comprising:

first computer code means for accessing the database and for identifying a first set of network devices from the database;

second computer code means for polling the first set of network devices for information.

11. A plug-in according to claim 10, further comprising:

third computer control means for utilizing the information from the polled first set of network devices to set predetermined properties for at least one of the first set of network devices.

12. A plug-in according to claim 10, further comprising:

fourth computer control means for determining error conditions in the first set of network devices from the information from the polled first set of network devices.

13. A plug-in according to claim 12, further comprising:

fifth computer control means for reporting at least one of the error conditions to a device management facility by an e-mail message.

14. A plug-in according to claim 13, wherein the fifth computer control means further reports at least a first error condition substantially as the first error condition occurs, and reports at least a second error condition if the second error condition persists for a predetermined period of time.

15. A plug-in according to claim 14, wherein the second to fifth computer control means are repeated for all devices within the first set of network devices at every one of poll cycles.

16. A plug-in according to claim 10, wherein the standard network management software is HP Open View™.

17. A plug-in according to claim 10, wherein the first set of network devices are all the network devices on the network discovered to be manufactured by a same manufacturer.

18. A plug-in according to claim 13, wherein fifth computer control means further encrypts the e-mail message.

19. A process for monitoring network devices on a network, comprising:

installing a plug-in for use with a standard network management software that discovers all network devices on the network and that stores information about the discovered devices in a database, the plug-in comprising:

5 a first computer control configured to access the database and to identify a first set of network devices from the database;

a second computer control configured to poll the first set of network devices for information.

20. A process according to claim 19, further comprising:

10 a third computer control configured to utilize the information from the polled first set of network devices to set predetermined properties for at least one of the first set of network devices.

21. A process according to claim 19, further comprising:

a fourth computer control configured to determine error conditions in the first set of network devices from the information from the polled first set of network devices.

15 22. A process according to claim 21, further comprising:

a fifth computer control configured to report at least one of the error conditions to a device management facility by an e-mail message.

20 23. A process according to claim 22, wherein the fifth computer control is further configured to report at least a first error condition substantially as the first error condition occurs, and to report at least a second error condition if the second error condition persists for a predetermined period of time.

24. A process according to claim 23, wherein the second to fifth computer controls are repeated for all devices within the first set of network devices at every one of poll cycles.

25 25. A process according to claim 19, wherein the standard network management software is HP Open View™.

26. A process according to claim 19, wherein the first set of network devices are all the network devices on the network discovered to be manufactured by a same manufacturer.

27. A process according to claim 22, wherein fifth computer control is further configured to encrypt the e-mail message.